



The Cairde Connection

"Keeping the Irish Arts Alive!"

Irish Cultural Center at
Elms College

Volume 13 & Issue 2

November 2012

December events offer variety of experiences

We hope to see you at our annual Christmas with an Irish Touch on Saturday, December 1 in the Alumnae Library Theater. It's our 14th! The event opens with the entertainment at 2:00 p.m. - a showing of the DVD *Kerry Christmas* and Christmas caroling in Irish led by Irish Fulbright teacher, Ciara Cosgrove. Refreshments will be served. At 4:00 p.m. Monsignor Christopher Connelly will preside at the liturgy in Our Lady's Chapel with readings and some parts of the Mass done in the Irish language.

Join us for a workshop on Irish place names and surnames on Saturday, December 8 in the Elms library media center at 11:00 a.m. The Irish Language Fulbright teacher, Ciara Cosgrove, will lead the workshop. Professor Joseph Lee, the director of the Irish history program at NYU,

starts his courses with Irish place names. He maintains that such an understanding helps the student to uncover what is a unique story or characteristic of the town. For example, you can learn about the meaning of towns with terms such as "kil", "dun", "rath", "tra", and "tra". County Tyrone's place name is very interesting.

The surnames of Ireland are similarly fascinating. The name "Mac Aleese" comes from the Irish Mac Giolla Íosa meaning a son of the devotee of Jesus. Many of the names have their own stories. Maybe you can find out more about your name.

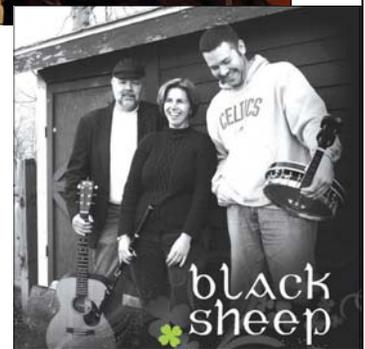
On Sunday, December 9 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. we will host the book launch of the Irish immigration book with representatives of the Republi-

can newspaper in the lower level of the Alumnae Library. It is a perfect time to meet some of the writers of the articles and perhaps get an autograph or two. Some of the authors, who are also writers of full length books will attend with their books for sale: Kevin O'Hara, Jim Cahillane, Joan Morris Reilly, Judith Kappenman. We will serve refreshments and enjoy Irish music. Come and share in the excitement of this event, celebrating the local Irish culture. You may even purchase some Christmas gifts.

Testimonial with music by Fran Hennessey

The Board of Directors of the Irish Cultural Center at Elms College cordially invites the public to attend a gala celebration to honor Judith Ellen Kappenman, SSJ for her years of service as the Executive Director. The event will take place at The Warehouse?, Holyoke, on Saturday November 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person and includes a buffet, tip, Irish music by "Banish Misfortune" and "The Black Sheep Band," gift, and donation to the Sister Judith Kappenman Irish Cultural Center Service Award. A candidate (and member of ICC) for the Award must demonstrate service to the Irish Cultural Center,

to other Irish organizations, or to the promotion of Irish Culture in other ways in the greater community. For reservations call Jean Brigham at 413-283-4232 or Mary Ellen Lowney at 413-592-6970 by November 6. Sister Judy became the Executive Director of the Irish Cultural Center at Elms College nine years ago and established the center as a hub for information on Irish events and news. During her tenure, she helped people who were interested in learning about Irish culture; she greeted Irish poets, artists, authors, historians, and politicians. In May of 2009 she welcomed at the Center the then President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.



Pictured above: Banish Misfortune and The Black Sheep Band

Sympathy offered

We offer our sympathy to Bishop Joseph Maguire on the death of his sister Grace Waystack.

The Irish Cultural Center strives to “keep the Irish arts alive.”

The Irish Cultural Center...

- Serves as a public forum for events, including lectures, musical presentations, films and exhibits
- Promotes ties between the Center and educational organizations in Ireland, especially with the Blasket Cultural Center
- Serves as an academic link with Irish American social organizations in Western New England.

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Ventry folks and their friends gather

By Mary Ellen O'Brien

On Monday evening, October 15th, the documentary film, *Men of Ventry* by Brenda Ni Shuilleabhain was presented in Veritas Auditorium at Elms College.

Brenda is a well known presenter, writer, broadcaster, producer, director, and translator. Her book, *Bibeanna* (Memories From A Corner of Ireland) was nominated for the prestigious international Glen Dimplex award in 2008.

Men of Ventry is a four part documentary on the men of her native parish of Ventry in the west of Dingle, in which she seeks to elaborate on her thesis that the nature of man is just as caring as that of a woman although differently manifested. By drawing from the quiet, rural lives of the men of her native parish, she has created a program of universal interest.

The film featured interviews with many of the men who live and work in Ventry. Their observations on some of life's different aspects were humorous, reflective, and at times heartbreaking. Also included were many old pictures and even some film footage from the 1960s and 1970s depicting what life was like back when these men were growing up in the West Kerry Gaeltacht.

The greater Springfield area was a prime destination for many of the men and women who emigrated from Ventry to the United States especially in the post World War II era. Because of that, many of their children and grandchildren still reside here and were in attendance that evening.

Seeking to promote our theme of “The Ties That Bind”, the Irish Cultural Center put forth a request for these Ventry descendants to submit



Pictured above: Brenda Ni Shuilleabhain introducing the program.

pictures of their grandfathers, fathers, brothers, or any male family member who had immigrated to Springfield from Ventry. The response was fantastic and the photographs displayed were a poignant reminder for many of us of how much those men and women who touched our lives in so many ways, are so deeply missed.

The feeling that was generated that evening in Veritas Auditorium spoke to the very strong sense of community that exists among the local Irish population and the desire of the Irish American “kids” to try to sustain the history and culture that was passed down to us from our parents.

This is truly a major part of the Irish Cultural Center's mission and is accomplished only with the help and support of our members. If anyone has any pictures of Ventry emigrants that they did not submit you may still do so by sending them or emailing them to the Irish Cultural Center. They will be included with the other photos and become part of an ongoing project to document and chronicle the stories of the Irish here in the Springfield area.

Speaker says the state of Ireland is bleak by Mary Ellen Lowney

"Ireland by 2020 will be a country that will not forget its history, but will see it in a new perspective," he said.

Lee's visit drew a crowd of members and friends, including ICC founders Sister Kathleen Keating, Thomas Moriarty and Sean Cahillane.

Cahillane said the event was all he had expected it to be.

"The idea of an annual breakfast gathering is a real enthusiasm builder," said Cahillane, who was recently appointed to a seat on the ICC's Board of Directors.

"It's something people look forward to. We've had some accomplished speakers, including Dr. Lee and many others," he said.

Fellow ICC Board Member Mary Ellen O'Brien agreed, adding, "When Dr. Lee said that Ireland's most important relationship was with the United States and that it was most importantly a relationship of the heart, I think it served to reinforce our own theme of 'The Ties That Bind' and confirmed the strong connection between the two countries."

ICC member Kathleen Riordan said she was pleased with the event, and with Lee's insights.

"Dr. Lee offered perspectives both historical and current," Riordan said. "His view was balanced and often humorous as he discussed the Irish character responding to political and economic realities. He handled questions well showing the breadth of his expertise. We certainly stayed tune to his accent."

Lee has served as a member of the Upper House of Irish Parliament, a member of the British-Irish Parliament Body, Chair of the Fulbright Commission for Ireland and was President of the Irish Association for European Studies.

He has taught at Cambridge University, University of Edinburgh, Univer-



Pictured: Chip Costello, Tom Moriarty, Sinead Loughran, Ciara Cosgrove, Joe Lee.

sity of Pittsburgh, University of Texas and University College Cork.

Lee has been recognized with the James F. Donnelly, Sr. Prize for History, American Conference for Irish Studies, 1990, and the Aer Lingus/Irish Times Prize for Literature, 1991. Noted historian, author and lecturer J. Joseph Lee told a packed audience at the Yankee Pedlar Inn on October 14 that the economic downspin in Ireland is a cog in an age-old wheel that will likely soon evolve yet again. Lee, a Castlegregory, County Kerry, native who is now director of Irish Studies and director of the Glucksmann Ireland House at New York University, was the keynote speaker at the Irish Cultural Center's annual breakfast. His topic was 'An Historian's Perspective on Ireland Since 1985.'

"In a way, Irish history since the independence has been quite cyclical," said Lee. "Good times followed by bad times, followed by good times and more bad times."

Lee is the author of several books, including 'Ireland 1912-1985, Politics and Society,' considered by many to be the definitive account on Irish history for that period.

He said the 1920s were good for Ire-

land, but the 1930s turned sour. Ireland's neutrality during World War II made for better times in the 1940s than many countries faced. But the next 15 years, the 1950s into the early 1960s, were tough, with Ireland remaining stagnant while much of Europe and the United States transformed culturally and economically.

There were some good years, Lee said. But in the mid-1980s, "we had dug ourselves into a hole again. We had high unemployment, high taxation and high debt."

Then came the Celtic Tiger, the period of phenomenal Irish economic expansion that stretched from about 1995 to 2007. Lee said the Irish were building houses "as if there would be an unlimited market for eternity." Ireland was a model for growth across Europe, where credit was easy and borrowing was encouraged. The Irish believed that they had risen from their struggles at long last, and forever.

Things looked great until the bust that has triggered massive cuts, financial losses and austerity measures, not to mention the collapse of the real estate market that had spurred and supported the growth.

Lee said the downturn has left the Irish discouraged as a nation.

"The current crash has more of a psychological impact than other bad times," he said. "People are the prisoners of memory. A lot of individuals have had to make journeys in their minds that most of them thought they would never have to make. It's one of the most drastic psychological journeys in history."

"It takes time for the memories of four centuries of struggle to collapse. This is truly historic in Irish terms."

Lee believes it will be another generation before the Irish will be able to shrug off the near-universal feeling of doom that has gripped Ireland.

Tour Ireland with the IRISH CULTURAL CENTER at Elms College!

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2 Nights in **DUBLIN** (Davenport Hotel on Merrion Square - www.davenporthotel.ie)

2 Nights in **BELFAST** (Europa Hotel – www.hastingshotels.com/europa-belfast)

2 Nights in **EDINBURGH** (Holiday Inn West – www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/edinburgh/edbuk/hoteldetail)

2 Nights in **GLASGOW** (Menzie Hotel – www.menzieshotels.co.uk/hotels/scotland/glasgow)

For Information or Reservations call: Kathy Gallivan at (413) 536-9709

OR E-Mail: kgallivan04@gmail.com

*Please visit our website for further details on Optional Travel Insurance, Single Supplement , Tax & Surcharges

INFORMATION SESSION

SUNDAY– NOVEMBER 11, 2013

2:00 P.M. – Dooley Campus Center, Elms College

291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA

For more details Visit Our “New” Website: www.ElmsIrishCenter.org

DON’T BE DISAPPOINTED! Space is limited to Only 45!

(\$400 Deposit is Required to Reserve Space on a First-Come, First-Served Basis)

Don't Rust Up by Chip Costello

George Edward Moore, the English philosopher, summed up what many travelers have often learned. "A man travels the world in search of what he needs and returns home to find it."

When traveling on the island of Ireland, one encounters magnificent cities with complicated histories, beautiful coastlines, rugged countryside, and small villages with friendly people. It's a great canvas on which to paint one's journey.

After spending four days in Dublin and Belfast, it was time to get out into the countryside.

As we travelled north, we decided that we would spend some time exploring the Glens of Antrim. The countryside was magnificent and served as a strong counterpoint to our recently visited cities.

Eventually we stopped at the Glanariff Forest Park. There were several hiking options, and we selected the Waterfall Trail that had serene views of the Glanariff River and its waterfalls. The clean air, the natural music of the forest, and the companionship of friends made for a great afternoon.

What I will remember most, however, about our afternoon was a short, spry gentleman who was taking a brief rest along the trail. He was in remarkably good shape and looked as if he could have selected any of the trails regardless of the difficulty level. Tim and Kevin, my fellow travelers, stopped and started to have a chat with him. They learned that he was



actually part of a hiking organization known as the Antrim Ramblers. He frequently went on hikes with the group or chose to go on his own. On that day he was hiking on his own.

Tim has the ability to make even strangers feel comfortable talking about themselves even though he had just met them. He learned that the gentleman was from the area and discovered that he was eighty two years old. Our intrepid group of three was surely thinking "How could we get to look that good when we get to that point?"

"You're eighty two years old? It's great you're hiking, enjoying the surroundings, and being a member of the Ramblers."

Looking for some more information, we

continued a bit gingerly "Why are you still out on the trail?" We were thinking he could be sitting at home in a comfortable chair drinking tea, enjoying biscuits and checking some football scores. Our new friend looked at us and responded in a friendly, knowing way. "Don't want to rust up." His assessment told us everything we needed to know. We realized there was more to his comment than just his physical ability to hike.

After resting our middle age joints for a bit longer, we wished our friend well and completed our hike. I had read reports of "the wee people" or daoine maithe in the Glens. If those people were left undisturbed, they minded their own business but had the ability to create some mischief. We don't think we disturbed the "wee man" that we met. In fact, wherever he is, we would like to thank him for his advice on not rusting up.

So I think George Edward Moore got it right. He probably never had the pleasure of meeting a "wee man" but our travel to Ireland enabled us to search for what we needed and returned home to find and understand it. Rusting up can happen at age eighteen, thirty, or sixty one. When you feel yourself heading sideways, find your "wee man" and hit the trail. Bain sult as – enjoy!



Pictured above: Kevin Fay and Tim Allen pause in their hike; below: images taken by Kevin Fay at Glanariff Forest Park.



Dues increase

The Board of Directors voted in October to increase dues from \$30 to \$35 for single membership and from \$55 to \$60 for family membership. We haven't had a dues increase in years. This is necessary to offset operating cost increases. We thank you for your continued support for our programs. The new rates will take effect Jan 1 2013. Please send dues before Dec 31 2012 to avoid the increase.

Announcing a special hardcover book from The Republican



The Republican.

Announcing a special book:

The Republican is pleased to announce "The Irish Legacy," the first book in *The Republican's* new *Heritage* series. We're excited to announce this new series of hardcover books. The first pictorial book will feature the story of the Irish immigrants in Western Massachusetts – a people who fled famine and oppression, helped build the railroads, labored at the Springfield Armory, fought by the thousands in the Civil War, and helped create a nation through public service. The Irish immigrants in Western Massachusetts have an incredibly rich history that will be told in one of the first books in *The Republican Heritage* series. This collector's item is on sale for a limited time! Order today and save \$10.00. Mail in the order form or order online at elms-irish.pictorialbook.com.

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Oiche Shamha *Halloween*



Amhrán beag do pháistí ar Oiche Shamhna
A simple song for children on Halloween
(To the tune of Frere Jaque)

IRISH

PHONETICALLY

Oiche Shamhna x2 Eeeha howna x2

Birin breac x2 Bareen brack x2

ulla agus cnonna x2 Ooola ogus cnoh-na x2

Is maith liom bia! X2 Is ma lum bee-a x2

[Halloween x2, barn brack x2, apples and nuts, I love food!]

Mo Chéad Dhá Mhí in Chicopee

Is ar éigin a chreidim go bhfuilim anseo le dhá mhí cheana féin agus nach comhartha iontach é sin don seacht mí os mo chomhair

amach in Elms!

I can hardly believe that I've been here for two months already and isn't that a great sign for the seven months in front of me in Elms!

Ba mhaith liom buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le cách in Ionad an Chultúir Éireannaigh as fáilte a chur romham agus as an gcuidiú socrú isteach sa ról mar Chúntóir i dTeanga Iasachta.

I'd like to extend warm thanks to all at the Irish Cultural Center for welcoming me and helping me to settle into the role as Foreign Language Teaching Assistant.

Daoibhse gur mhaith leo giota beag Gaeilge a bheith acu, smaoinígí ar shíniú suas do cheann de na ranganna. Níl sé riamh ró-dhéanach!

For those of you who would like to learn some Irish Language, think about signing up for one of the classes. It's never too late!



Seo cúpla focal mar thúspointe daoibh.

Here are a few words to start you off.

Dia duit	Jee-ah ditch	<i>Hello (God to you)</i>
Conas atá tú?	Kunis ataw too?	<i>How are you?</i>
Go maith	Guh ma	<i>Good/well</i>
Slán	Slawn	<i>Bye (Safety)</i>
Sláinte	Slawnche	<i>Cheers(Health)</i>

Pictured: left: attendees at Men of Ventry event examine the display; right: attendees at the breakfast smile for the camera.

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ICC Calendar of events

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Genealogy volunteer
Ed Callahan 413-527-5091 or email eastgram@aol.com

Go to our web site or Facebook to see added programs

November 11, 2:00 p.m. information session: Journey of the Soul trip to Ireland

November 17 Testimonial in honor of Sr. Judy's years of service

December 1, 2:00 p.m. Christmas with an Irish Touch with entertainment followed by Mass at 4:00 p.m.

December 8, 11 a.m. Place names and surnames workshop with Ciara Cosgrove

December 9, 1:00– 4:00 p.m. Irish immigration book launch

February 6, 2013, March 6, 13, 20 Irish film series

March 3, 2:00 p.m. Ceili celebration At Sons of Erin

May 5 La Na Gaeilge—day-long Irish Language workshop

July 21-26, 2013 Celtic Adventures for Kids

For information on our partner Irish organizations, check out their websites.

AOH
www.AOH-Holyoke.com

John Boyle O'Reilly Club
www.jbo-club.com

Sons of Erin
www.sonsoferin.com

St. Patrick's Parade Committee
www.holyokestpatricksparade.com

The ICC board of directors has established a search committee for an administrator. The job description is posted on our web site, giving ICC members an opportunity to apply. Candidates for the position must apply by regular mail. Deadline to apply is Nov 30.